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Congress Set to End Military COVID Vaccine Mandate, No Sign Biden Will Veto

The U.S. House of Representatives is expected to vote later this week to rescind the Pentagon's COVID-19 vaccine mandate, after Republican lawmakers threatened to withhold votes for the $858 billion National Defense Authorization Act.

By The Defender Staff

55

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The U.S. House of Representatives is expected to vote later this week to rescind the Pentagon's COVID-19 vaccine mandate, after Republican lawmakers threatened to withhold votes for the $858 billion National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) unless the bill included removal of the mandate.

The news was confirmed Tuesday night, according to The Washington Post, which also reported that Rep. Mike Rogers (R-Ala.), the ranking Republican on the House Armed Services Committee, said the removal of the vaccination requirement "was essential for the defense policy bill to move forward."

The legislation must pass the U.S. Senate before heading to President Biden. Biden, who along with U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin opposes repealing the mandate, has not indicated that he will veto the bill, Politico reported.

The Pentagon would have 30 days to rescind the mandate of the bill passes as is.

Thousands of active duty service members have been discharged for refusing the shots since the Pentagon instituted the mandate in August 2021. The proposed legislation will not reinstate discharged service members or compensate those who lost benefits for refusing vaccination.

According to The Hill's "Rising," Tulsi Gabbard, a politician and U.S. Army Reserve officer, slammed the mandate:

> "I know people personally who have been kicked out of the military, some who have served 10 years, 20 years, 25 years, all because of this mandate that makes no sense and frankly is based on a lie that [Dr. Anthony] Fauci and others continue to propagate as they have throughout this whole thing, which is these vaccines will prevent you from catching COVID, that it will prevent you from spreading COVID.
>
> "The fact that it is even a question at this point whether or not to lift this DOD [Department of Defense] mandate, and that Secretary Austin is opposing it is just absolute madness."

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The policy became a point of contention between Democratic and Republican lawmakers during NDAA negotiations, but in a joint statement Sens. Jack Reed (D-R.I.) and Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), and Reps. Adam Smith (D-Wash.) and Mike Rogers (R-Ala.), said they were "pleased to announce we've come to a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on this year's National Defense Authorization Act," The Epoch Times Reported.

This bipartisan group made up of top members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services and the House Armed Services Committee, urged Congress to quickly pass the bill and Biden to sign it afterward.

'Make no mistake: this is a win for our military'

Republicans celebrated the victory, but cautioned it is only "a first step," and called on the Biden administration to reenlist the service members discharged under the policy, according to the Washington Post.

"Make no mistake: this is a win for our military," House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) said in a statement late Tuesday night.

"The end of the vaccine mandate for troops will be a big win, and it's happening because conservatives stood strong for what we believe in and didn't back down," Sen. Mike Braun (R-Ind.) said.

The Democrats' decision to compromise on the bill comes just days after the White House and Austin reiterated their support for the vaccine mandate.

"We lost a million people to this virus," Austin told reporters Saturday, according to The Associated Press. "A million people died in the United States of America. We lost hundreds in the DOD. So this mandate has kept people healthy."

John Kirby, White House National Security Council coordinator for strategic communications told reporters Tuesday, "The president actually concurs with the secretary that we need to continue to believe that all Americans, including those in the armed forces, should be vaccinated and boosted for COVID-19."

But some Democrats agreed it may be time for the mandate to end. House Armed Services Chair Adam Smith told Politico last week that he was open to discussing an end to the mandate.

"I was a very strong supporter of the vaccine mandate when we did it, but at this point in time, does it make sense to have that policy from August 2021?" Smith asked.

"The politics on that have changed," said Rep. Marc Veasey (D-Texas), another member of the Armed Services panel, according to The Hill. "If this were 2020, it would be a different story."

The struggle isn't over: 'You can't repeal without repair'

Republicans have called for an end to the military vaccine mandate since it was implemented in August 2021, citing concerns it would harm retention and recruitment of service members and negatively impact the readiness of the U.S. Armed Forces.

In September, a group of 47 Congress members wrote to Austin, urging the Pentagon to revoke the mandate, stating:

> "The vaccine provides negligible benefit to the young, fit members of our Armed Forces, and the mandate's imposition is clearly affecting the Department's ability to sustain combat formations and recruit future talent."

Last week, a group of 21 Republican governors wrote to congressional leaders again calling for immediate action to end the COVID-19 vaccine mandate for all members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The letter summarized reports by military officials confirming that thousands of service members were discharged following the mandate and the National Guard and the Army missed their recruiting targets by 10% and 25% respectively.

A bloc of GOP senators, led by Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) announced on Nov. 30 that they would stall the defense spending bill in the Senate if there was no vote to end the mandate and reinstate troops.

Paul said the mandate didn't make sense because the vaccine doesn't stop virus transmission and it creates an elevated risk of heart inflammation for young people. Many service members have also already had COVID-19, granting them a form of protection against reinfection and severe disease.

Some Republican lawmakers said just repealing the mandate doesn't go far enough.

"You can't repeal without repair," Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) told Fox News Digital on Tuesday. "The repair has to be reinstating individuals who want to come back, correcting their records, allowing these individuals who have served honorably to be recognized that way."

He said this issue will be a primary focus for the Republican House in January.

McCarthy also promised in a statement on Tuesday that when the GOP takes over the House next year, Republicans will "work to finally hold the Biden administration accountable and assist the men and women in uniform who were unfairly targeted."

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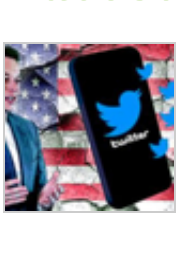
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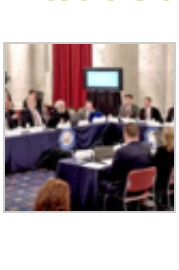
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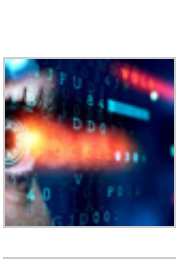
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sherry715 • 2 days ago

I lost my job due to the vaccine mandates, but I didn't lose my life!

25 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Mike G → sherry715 • a day ago

I ended up getting the vaccine, and after that my job began requiring it. I seem to have not suffered any ill effects, though I still regret the decision (made for personal reasons). I will NEVER get a booster or any other mRNA vaccine though. The requirements make no sense since they don't actually protect you or anyone else from anything. You get far more protection from not getting it, that much should be obvious to everyone now.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

GarySummers → sherry715 • a day ago

Bingo!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

EyesWideOpen • 2 days ago

This is good news. Now repeal the mandate for healthcare workers too.

22 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Kate Kelly → EyesWideOpen • 2 days ago

Good idea! The Republican House, in January, should proceed to threaten all Federal monies currently going to hospitals, insurance companies, medical schools, and doctors, labs, etc., IF the healthcare worker shot mandate continues...

10 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

GarySummers → Kate Kelly • a day ago

BINGO!
USA is all about $Money$ the only language they may understand!
Withhold $Mr. Green$!

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

0311boston → Kate Kelly • a day ago

Add to that the stupid and unhealthy MASK mandate!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

GarySummers → EyesWideOpen • a day ago • edited

IMO:
Yes for Healthcare Workers Also!
Hopefully Litigation will Continue, how could they Mandate EUA Jabs?
FDA approved one, never available in USA.
Sec. Of Defense needs to be Fired my Opinion, plus any Medical CEO that mandated the Jabs.

'Hopefully Dr. Cole is Wrong'?, for many he feels it's to late?
""Dr. Ryan Cole""
"That spike protein, literally causing the 'lymphocytes to chew a hole in the aorta', when that ruptures, you're gone in minutes".???

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

tag → EyesWideOpen • 2 days ago

And hopefully for mankind, let healthcare workers become workers for health...not wealth.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Caroline Cary Davidson → tag • a day ago

which means that they will have to join the alternate system because the entrenched pharma system will not budge. we have to walk away from it, en masse

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

tag → Caroline Cary Davidson • 21 hours ago

I agree and already have. I haven't seen an MD since the mid 1990's Unless i get creamed by a bus, you will never see me in an emergency room OR a doctors office. I haven't trusted the "Greatest Healthcare in the World" for years and after the last 3 years? Trust them even less. Give me clean food, which I grow most myself, my local farmers that have the same mindset, my essential oils, homeopathic remedies and my own homegrown chicken flock and my herbs. And of course my faith in God that gave us everything we need to stay healthy, including an immune system that shouldn't be destroyed by Pharma!

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

GarySummers → tag • a day ago

'BOMBSHELL: 'Veritas Documents Reveal DC Bureaucrats Had Evidence ''Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine'' Were Effective in Treating COVID'' — BUT HID THIS FROM PUBLIC''
https://www.thegatewaypundi...

"Documents stored on a ''TOP SECRET'' folder on the computers of the Defense Advanced Research Project Agency (DARPA) prove that the medicines ''Ivermectin, Hydroxychloroquine and Interferon were PROVEN "Curative" of COVID-19 in April, 2020'' – 'the cures were buried' as "Top Secret."

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

tag → GarySummers • 21 hours ago

And new evidence for this is coming out everyday. I can smell left fear! Let the jumping off of the sinking ship begin. They call it "retirement" LOL!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

sherry715 → EyesWideOpen • 2 days ago

I'm with you!

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Janine Largent → EyesWideOpen • 2 days ago

That sadly will never happen.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

GarySummers → Janine Largent • a day ago

Healthcare Unions should send legal requests to New US House Speaker Kevin McCarthy?

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

RD • 2 days ago

Let the lawsuits against the cowards who've had so much fun poisoning their fellow soldiers begin.

19 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

GarySummers → RD • a day ago

IMO: Check all their USA and Abroad, Financials, Forensic Audit, if they received any Money from Big Pharma, NIH, Social Media, Google, Youtube, Twitter, Obama, Clintons, Soro's, FTX, Gates Foundation, Etc, Etc.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

IsisM • 2 days ago

These mandates need to end. I'm sure the military has lost good people who had the sense to refuse. As it is, they have trouble recruiting enough qualified people. The shot--which is NOT a vaccine--does not prevent illness, does not prevent transmission and comes with the possibility of some terrible side effects, up to and including death. All good reasons to NOT take it.

16 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

tag → IsisM • 2 days ago

I'm not military or healthcare. Thank God I was smart enough to not follow the propaganda!

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

CATRYNA49 → tag • a day ago • edited

Same here. I recognised the BS from the very first day this whole mess started in 2020. I never complied with anything.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

tag → CATRYNA49 • 21 hours ago

We are the passengers on the next Noah's Ark!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Dr. Covid Hoax • 2 days ago

They already did so much damage they probably don't care. Mission accomplished. Big Pharma and their willing political patsy's are pure evil.

15 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Stephen Thomson • 2 days ago

Ridiculous that the mandates ever existed. Especially in light of the fact that Biden himself said on National television that he would never mandate the vaccine. Fauci was quoted as saying the same. Their words are clearly not worth the paper they are written on.

14 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Carrie Lavine • 2 days ago

I am proud of the thousands of service members who not only defended their own health in their Constitutional Right to refuse the poison shot &spoke for us all-so honorable&still got dishonorably discharged because of a president who bows down to Pharma.Thank you Rand Paul for leading the charge&saying emphatically end the mandate-as the covid shot increases the Risk for heart inflammation in young ppl&fails to prevent transmission.Also i thank him for demanding soldiers who refused get honorably reinstated&for saying Loud&Clear those who had covid r protected by Natural Immunity.

11 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

tag → Carrie Lavine • 2 days ago

All of the BS for a so called disease that from day one only had a less than 1% kill rate. WTF is wrong with people? Now we are killing our kids? Millions have died and Fauci is still taking up air space?

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

UnionMember • 2 days ago

TULSI and other congresspeople didn't say jack sht when they illegally mandated it.
They didn't stand up for anybody but their own scripts that big pharma gave them.
It's despicable.

10 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

GarySummers → UnionMember • a day ago

Yes, where were they then?

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

chris • 2 days ago • edited

win? How many soldiers by now were genetically modified via the injections???? HOW many are left??????

7 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Beatrice • 2 days ago

Take note or rather make a list of the incompetent and stupid lawmakers. They are surely incompetent because they haven't bothered to educate themselves or notice the inconsistencies and lack of logic in the so called science. They could also be corrupt (shocking, I know) therefore deliberately ignoring all the above but in any case, they need to be terminated.

7 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

GarySummers → Beatrice • a day ago • edited

They were Smart enough to Exempt themselves from the Poison Jabs.
Plus take Ivermectin, #200 Congress Members took Ivermectin.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Anne Simpson → GarySummers • 7 hours ago

Do as I say, not as I do! That's their motto. Why didn't we all use the excuse that Biden and Gates used as to the fact that their families do not take any vaccines. I wonder why not???? Inside information on the dangers? I wonder.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Caroline Cary Davidson • a day ago

'we kept people healthy with this mandate'... what friggin' planet are these people living on? do they not have eyes in their heads? it boggles the mind! its like none of them are capable of thinking for themselves, its just never ending 'believe, follow, repeat. believe, follow, repeat...' and in the face of overwhelming evidence, they double down. holy hell.

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Anne Simpson → Caroline Cary Davidson • 7 hours ago

I wouldn't call injuring millions of people with the vaccine and even causing death by it as keeping them healthy. When have you ever seen a healthy corpse?

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Jennifo • a day ago

Is it just me but isn't it odd that to my knowledge to this day, no one in any of Congress has 'suddenly died' yet?? While millions of other Americans have but ironically we haven't lost ANY evil doer in Congress???? Just sayin...

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Mike G → Jennifo • a day ago

It's because they exempted themselves from the shot.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Anne Simpson → Jennifo • 7 hours ago

Yeh. What a coincidence....NOT

^ | v • Reply • Share ›

tag • 2 days ago

People better wake up and realize just why this puppet administration WANTS our military sick, useless and dead. Why this puppet Administration is selling off our reserve oil and using it to make him look good. We are quickly becoming a nation that has no ability to defend ourselves. Just a part of the plan by joe and O.

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Brian Collecott → tag • a day ago

Yep, our UK government dismantled essential gas reserves.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

tag → Brian Collecott • 20 hours ago

I watch what is going on in the UK. I feel bad for you as most of my ancestors came from there. I also think what is going on in your country is coming to mine, the USA soon.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

GarySummers → tag • a day ago

Red China did not give all those Millions $$ to the Biden Family Cartel for Nothing!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

tag → GarySummers • 21 hours ago

EXACTLY!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

BetterLuckNextTime • 2 days ago

Why isn't the case where Federal Judge Rejects DOD Claim That Pfizer EUA and Comirnaty Vaccines Are 'Interchangeable',

https://childrenshealthdefe...

moving forward? I would bet money that this case is part of the real reason the mandate is being removed, and they don't want to admit it, because it exposes that they have violated the EUA is multiple ways.

This case moving forward, and spawning other suits, would be a step towards repair.

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

GarySummers → BetterLuckNextTime • a day ago

Bingo!

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Christina • 2 days ago

Healthcare workers , they just caved and paved the way for the rest of the mandates for so many other occupations including our sacred military personnel. We have to somehow get big pharma out of our healthcare system, are there good pharmaceuticals, yeah . That said they have destroyed our trust from their propaganda fear campaigns like they did here in Maine where now non vaxed kids have been thrown out of school. Meanwhile they are connected with this chain of corrupt organizations developing killer viruses. Making vaccines for their diabolical creations working as does any mad scientist from a horror movie. This however is no horror movie this is a reality and it must be destroyed starting with dissecting their influences over our entire medical profession. These young hopeful medical students did not enter this profession to be led to slaughter and disgrace .They need to stop acting like sheeples ,there are all kinds of smart and their decisions are having a major disastrous effect on us all. If the medical workers a majority said no to this experimental injection that would have stopped this assault in its tracks! Because I have a close family member who had a baby a pregnant wife a new mortgage & newly graduated PA I fully understand how difficult his situation was. He waited till the last minute to get injected. Had all the rest done so strength and resistance as a collective would have grown and that would have stopped this madness. Now we all have to ponder if our beloved family member will be ok, what the future holds for his life ,his family . We live a tortured existence now.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

anna • 2 days ago • edited

Please prevent Covid 'vaccine' mandates for children to attend school or daycare in California (& possibly elsewhere) slated to begin in 2023. Please sign (or re-sign) petition: https://childrenshealthdefe...

Thank you on behalf of children, parents, families & educators

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Janine Largent • 2 days ago

This is great news. I suspect there will be no sudden epidemic of Covid amongst the troops seeing as the jab wasn't preventing spread anyway

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Margo Thompson • 2 days ago

Thank God! He does answer prayer! Now, we need everyone who wants to get back in to do so without harassment.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

Jennifer Wood • 2 days ago

Many thanks to the many Republicans and some of the Democrats that got informed and opposed this dictatorial and dangerous mandate and especially the bipartisan groups that fought it. Many thanks also to Tulsi Gabbard and all the other politicians, doctors, scientists, nurses and other workers that opposed this sometimes at great cost to themselves.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

jprexena • 2 days ago

Sure it took this long for banker bought parasite politicians to figure that out, when the one party system are bought and paid for by big pharma, corporations, secret societies, and the overlords. All to suit them politically. As none of them would do anything to end the federal reserve, the IRS, TSA, NASA...
Way too late to save the military, even more are waking up to the reality of the bankers wars they signed up for.
As they suffering from the adverse effects of the experimental covid death shots....more don't want to sign up to fight in any bankers wars.
That includes those at other places who took the shot in order to keep their job are either suffering, no effect, or are dead. Talk about crimes against humanity of those who have died suddenly. Speaking of which that documentary by controlled opposition Stew Peters had several errors in that documentary and plagiarized a scene making it appear the procedure took place recently, when in fact took place in 2019. Why it's important to question everything and trust no one.
https://operationdisclosure...
What about the advanced technology to be used for good?
But of course anything that promotes control, depopulation, and separation from God are promoted to the nth degree.

4 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›

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